



## **Brattleboro Museum & Art Center**

10 Vernon Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

[www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org)

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### **Free Indie Film-Screening at BMAC**

#### **Goes Inside the World of the 'Zaballeen', the Garbage People of Cairo**

Brattleboro, Vermont—On Thursday, January 14 at 7:30 p.m., the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC), in partnership with Vermont Public Television and Brattleboro Community Television, presents a free screening of the prize-winning film “Garbage Dreams,” which is currently short-listed for the Academy Award for Best Feature Documentary. The screening will take place at BMAC and will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Marlboro College teaching fellow Mahmoud Refaat Abd-Ellah Mahmoud and southern Vermont residents Marrin Robinson, who taught art at The American University in Cairo, and Diane Tayeby, former Director of Music at Cairo’s British International School.

The film is being shown as part of BMAC’s new *Community Cinema* program, a free monthly advance-screening project featuring documentary films from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. Every month BMAC hosts a free public screening of a cutting-edge documentary film soon to be aired on PBS. Screenings are accompanied by community-based discussions and events, organized by BMAC, that bring together citizens, organizations, and public television stations in dialogue and action around important social issues.

Filmed over four years, "Garbage Dreams" goes inside the world of Egypt's Zaballeen (Arabic for 'garbage people') to reveal the lives of two teenage boys born into the trash trade. For generations, the residents of Cairo have depended on the Zaballeen to collect their trash, paying them only a minimal amount for their garbage-collection services. These entrepreneurial garbage workers survive by recycling 80 percent of all the garbage they collect, creating what is arguably the world's most efficient waste-disposal system. Recycling to lift themselves out of poverty, the Zaballeen have, through necessity, devised ingenious solutions to one of the world's most pressing problems. When the city they keep clean suddenly decides to replace the Zaballeen with multinational garbage-disposal companies, the Zaballeen community finds itself at a crossroads. Face to face with the globalization of their trade, they are forced to make choices that will impact their future and the survival of the community.

Major support for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's 2009-2010 season is provided by BMAC members and Entergy Vermont Yankee, Foard Panel, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Sam's Outdoor Outfitters, and Chittenden Bank. The Museum's exhibits and gift shop are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Tuesday and Wednesday. Regular admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for students. Members and children 5 and under are admitted free of charge.

Founded in 1972, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center presents art and ideas in ways that inspire, educate, and engage people of all ages. Each season features compelling new exhibits of contemporary artwork by regional and internationally acclaimed artists, complemented by lectures, artist talks, film screenings, and other public programs. Located in historic Union Station in downtown Brattleboro, at the intersection of Main Street (Route 5) and Routes 119 and 142, the Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information call 802-257-0124 or visit [www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org).

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